

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141817
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
S/S -SESTEINER

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O 180040Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141817

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE BY ROK
AMBASSADOR

1. DURING JUNE 17 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE,
AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SIK RAISED SPEECH TO BE GIVEN BY
SECRETARY JUNE 29 TO ASIA SOCIETY. KIM SAID HE HOPED
SPEECH WOULD BE OCCASION FOR STRONG REAFFIRMATION OF U.S.
SECURITY COMMITMENT TO KOREA.

2. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT SPEECH HAS NOT YET BEEN PUT IN
FINAL DRAFT, BUT IT WOULD INCLUDE A VERY STRONG REITERATION
OF THE U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO KOREA. IF IT INCLUDED
ANY REFERENCE TO NORTH KOREA, THIS WOULD BE IN TERMS OF
REAFFIRMATION OF OUR PRESENT POLICIES, IN PARTICULAR OUR
REFUSAL TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE NORTH UNLESS
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUB IC OF KOREA PARTICIPATED;
HOLBROOKE ALSO NOTED THA WHIL THE SPEECH WOULD COVER
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PAGE 02 STATE 141817

HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL, IT WOULD CONTAIN NO SPECIFIC
REFERENCES TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN KOREA. HE SAID
THE SPEECH WOULD ALSO PRAISE KOREAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND THE VITALITY AND PROGRESS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

3. HOLBROOKE ASSURED KIM THAT THE ROK EMBASSY WOULD BE

PROVIDED WITH AN ADVANCE TEXT OF THE KOREAN PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH AS SOON AS THEY WERE AVAILABLE. HE ASKED KIM TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF THE POSITIVE POINTS THE SPEECH WOULD MAKE AND HOPED THAT THE ROKG WOULD PUBLICLY SUPPORT THE LINE TAKEN IN THE SPEECH ONCE IT IS GIVEN. IN THIS REGARD, HOLBROOKE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE ROKG TO TAKE A PUBLIC STANCE EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN THE DIRECTION OF U.S.-KOREAN SECURITY RELATIONS. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ROKG HAS ACCEPTED OUR GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWAL PLANS AND IS DETERMINED TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE NEW SITUATION. AUTHORITATIVE AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE ROKG TO THIS EFFECT WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT IN KOREA, IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WOULD PROVIDE AN OCCASION FOR SUCH STATEMENTS FROM THE KOREAN SIDE.

4. KIM SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE VERY PLEASED WITH THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AS DESCRIBED BY HOLBROOKE AND HE WOULD CONVEY TO IT HOLBROOKE'S REMARKS CONCERNING POSSIBLE ROKG COMMENTS.

5. AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY AMBASSADOR SHOULD DISCUSS SPEECH WITH FONMIN ALONG ABOVE LINES, UNDERLINING USEFULNESS OF POSITIVE ROKG RESPONSE AFTER SPEECH IS GIVEN AND DESIRABILITY OF GENERAL ROK STATEMENTS EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OF U.S.-ROK SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.
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